

# NEWS

Fran Pavley  
Assemblymember, 41<sup>st</sup> District

A MONTHLY ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER TO THE 41<sup>st</sup> ASSEMBLY DISTRICT  
(Including Agoura Hills, Calabasas, Encino, Malibu, Hidden Hills, Lake Sherwood, Oak Park, Pacific Palisades, Port Hueneme, South Oxnard, Santa Monica, Tarzana, Topanga, Westlake Village, and Woodland Hills.)

## NOVEMBER 2004 EDITION

### The election is over ...

... and I am deeply honored and grateful to the voters to have been given the privilege of serving the citizens of the 41<sup>st</sup> Assembly District for what is now my third and final two-year term. I have worked hard over the past four years on issues that included education, air and water quality, privacy and consumer protection, prescription drug costs, and children's health, and will be continuing to address quality of life issues in the two years ahead.

All Assemblymembers, both new and returning, will be sworn in to office on December 6 in our beautiful State Capitol, with the first 2005 legislative session beginning on Monday, January 3. I appreciate the wonderful support I have received from the people I represent, and hope that you will continue to share your concerns and ideas with me.

*Fran Pavley*



## LAO Releases Five-Year Budget State Projections

Last week, Elizabeth Hill, the state's nonpartisan Legislative Analyst, released her report on projections of General Fund revenues and expenditures for fiscal years 2004-05 through 2009-10. The report included an independent assessment of the outlook for California's economy, demographics, revenues, and expenditures. Hill warns that already next year, the Legislature faces "a deceptively difficult challenge." Although a strengthening economy plus \$3.5 billion in authorized deficit-financing bonds that haven't yet been used could help the Legislature balance next year's budget by making "a relatively modest amount of hard choices ... this would only be a temporary fix." Expenditures are still outpacing revenues.

The projected budget gap in the 2005-06 budget is roughly \$7 billion, and \$10 billion in 2006-07. California currently has \$26 billion in budget-related debt, and borrowing accounts for over 40% of the projected

shortfalls. Hill says that even with an improving economy, it's "unlikely that California will grow its way out" of the ongoing problem, and advises that the Legislature must adopt "real and ongoing solutions.... Borrowing eventually becomes a drag on future budgets as revenues are diverted from current programs to pay for past borrowing."

The amount of borrowing, deferrals, and other budget gimmicks that have been used in the past couple of state budgets, because of the inability in the Legislature to get a 2/3 majority vote in support of more difficult budget options, has been a real concern of mine. Whatever "easy" choices there were to balance the state's budget once revenues plunged following the 2001-02 recession and steep decline in the stock market, are long gone. The next two years will be a huge challenge.

To access the full text of the very reader-friendly Legislative Analyst's report, go to [www.lao.ca.gov](http://www.lao.ca.gov).

## Canada May Adopt California's "Pavley Bill" Vehicle Emission Regulations

I just returned from a very interesting visit to Canada's capitol city of Ottawa. I was invited to come and share the experience of getting my landmark greenhouse gas emissions bill, AB 1493, through the California Legislature in 2002. Although it's frequently referred to as the "Pavley Bill", I prefer to call it the "Clean Car Bill." Canada is considering adopting California's regulations as its national standard if voluntary compliance by their auto manufacturers cannot be reached. The regulations were adopted by the California Air Resources Board in September, and are supported by Governor Schwarzenegger.

On November 17, I met with Environment Minister Stephane Dion and Natural Resources Minister John Efford to discuss California's regulatory approach to reducing vehicular greenhouse gas emissions. They also wanted to know how Canada and California might share information and ideas related to climate change. I also spoke to interested Parliamentarians (elected members of the House of Commons) at a Newsmakers' Breakfast at the National Press Club, and at a Parliamentary Briefing on the Hill.

Canada could meet its Kyoto targets and help drive a continental shift to more climate-friendly vehicles by joining California, New York, New Jersey and possibly four other states, and regulating their greenhouse gases from cars. John Bennett, Senior Policy Advisory – Energy, Sierra Club of Canada minced no words when he commented that "Canada should adopt California type regulations. It's the only game in town. We should surround Detroit and make them say uncle."

I hope this visit will be the first step toward working together on climate change – an issue that knows no borders. Support in Canada for government action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from vehicles is high. In fact, Minister Dion and an impressive group of high-ranking officials will be making a trip to Sacramento in January to continue our discussions on climate change, alternative fuels, renewable resources, and other environmental topics.

## How Private Is Your Telephone Number?

Did you know that when you call an 800 (855, 866, 877, 888) or 900 telephone number, your number could be disclosed to the party you're calling and recorded in a database sold to telemarketers? The California Public Utilities Commission wants consumers to know that some companies listing 800 or 900 numbers are now using **Automatic Number Identification (ANI)**, which is approved by the FCC. When you dial their number, ANI equipment can automatically add your phone number to their customer data base, and companies are not required to tell you if they have ANI. Companies with ANI can then use your phone number to get your address, income level, items purchased, and similar information from other marketing databases, or can sell your number to telemarketers.

Also, never assume that an 800 or 900 number is toll-free. If the number is ANI, you may reach a recording advising that you will be called back collect. Or you may be told to call a 900 number. In either case, the call would be billed to you.

### What can you do?

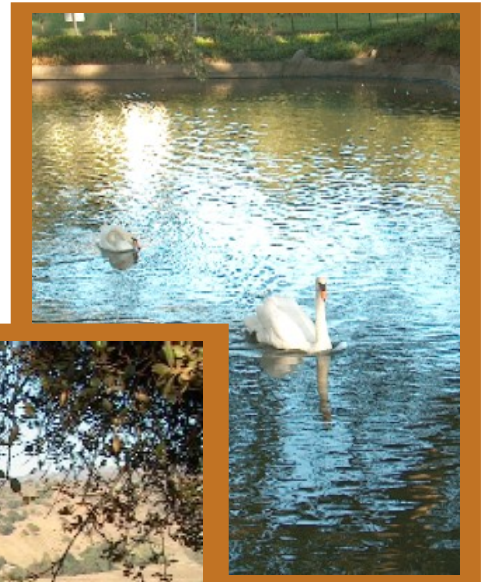
If a person answers an 800 or 900 number, tell them that you do not want your information kept in the company records, nor rented or sold to other companies. You can also advise them that you don't want them to solicit future business from you.



To complain about a company using ANI, write to:

Office of the Attorney General – Public Inquiry Unit  
P.O. Box 944255, Sacramento, CA 94244-2550  
<http://caag.state.ca.us/consumers/mailform.html>  
Or call 1-800-952-5225

## Soka University Acquisition Moves Forward



The remarkably beautiful and environmentally-sensitive 588 acres of Soka University are located at the corner of Las Virgenes Road (now a state scenic highway) and Mulholland Highway, in the heart of the Santa Monica Mountains.

This site is generally agreed upon to be the most important and still-unprotected property in the Santa Monicas. It is at risk of being sold for development, but Soka University has also expressed its willingness to sell to the State of California as permanently-protected visitor-serving parkland. On October 25, the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy approved an option agreement with Soka to retain the right-of-first refusal until April of 2005 while funding sources are assembled. This is almost certainly the state's last opportunity after many years of efforts to acquire it. I am working closely with the Conservancy and the other relevant state agencies and parties to make it happen.

# Public Hearings Scheduled on Cabrillo Port (BHP Billiton) LNG Project

BHP Billiton is an Australian company that hopes to build a floating platform roughly 20 miles off Oxnard and 14 miles off Malibu to receive liquid natural gas (LNG) from tanker ships. The LNG would then be transported by a pipeline on the sea floor where it would come on-shore and connect to an existing Southern California Gas Company pipeline at the Reliant Energy plant. Public hearings on the draft Environmental Impact Statement/Report have been scheduled by the U.S. Coast Guard and California State Lands Commission. Comments can be submitted in the form of either oral or written testimony.

**Oxnard – Oxnard Performing Arts Center – 800 Hobson Way**

**Tuesday, November 30**

Hearings at both 1:00 to 2:30 p.m. and 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.

**Malibu – Webster Elementary School Cafetorium – 3602 Winter Canyon**

**Wednesday, December 1**

Hearing from 7:00 to 9:30 p.m.

For more information, visit the State Lands Commission website at <http://www.slc.ca.gov>. Scroll to Project Updates and click to access project information on BHP Billiton.

## The “Top 10” List That No Self-Respecting Beach Wants To Be On

Every September, California observes Coastal Cleanup Day. Thousands of volunteers gather on beaches and coastal inlets to help clean up the trash that millions of other Californians, mostly without thinking, are sending straight to the ocean. Contrary to what many people believe, trash and other debris, including hazardous materials like paint thinner or used motor oil that is disposed of curbside or hosed or otherwise allowed to get into the watersheds, encounters no treatment of any kind between where it is deposited and where gravity ultimately takes it – the beach.

All cities should be challenged to accept responsibility for their share of urban runoff. Simple changes like storm drain filters, public education about using “mutt mitts” to clean up pet waste, frequent street sweeping, etc. can cumulate to make a huge difference in what ends up at the water’s edge.

Here’s a “hall of shame” **Top 10** list that the Coastal Conservancy compiled of items they found during a single Coastal Cleanup day:

Lastly, it was gratifying to see City of L.A. voters pass ballot Measure “O” on Nov. 2, which will provide \$500 million in critically-needed storm water bond funding. Francine Diamond, Pacific Palisades resident and Chair of the L.A. Regional Water Quality Control Board, commented on the significance of this vote: “The Regional Board is thrilled that the voters of Los Angeles understand how important cleaning up our polluted storm water is to public health and our quality of life. Our beaches and ocean are precious resources that must be protected. They provide us with amazing recreational opportunities, as well as billions of dollars in income. Every time the voters have an opportunity to vote on water quality, they show just how wise and well informed they are.”

### 2003 California Coastal Cleanup Debris Tally *The ten most common items found on California beaches at last year’s Coastal Cleanup Day*

Rank	Item	Pieces collected
10.	Beverage cans	19,993
9.	Cigar tips	22,233
8.	Plastic beverage bottles	23,654
7.	Bags	29,207
6.	Glass beverage bottles	30,459
5.	Cups, plates, cutlery	34,558
4.	Straws and stirrers	34,820
3.	Caps and lids	58,863
2.	Food containers and wrappers	106,111
1.	Cigarettes and filters	315,806

Source: 2003 International Coastal Cleanup – Ocean Conservancy

## And Congratulations to Ventura County

Kudos to the Ventura County Board of Supervisors who, last month, decided to ban all styrofoam and polystyrene products at all restaurants and concessions doing business at County facilities. New vendor contracts will also ban their use. Unlike paper products, polystyrene never decomposes. It merely breaks down into small pieces that contaminate our water and pose health hazards to birds, fish and other wildlife. The response from businesses with leases from the Harbor Department was apparently all positive. My thanks to all of them who want to "do the right thing." I'll be very interested in watching how it goes.

## Santa Monica Gets Major Park Grant Award

The City of Santa Monica just received a \$1.5 million grant from California State Parks of voter-approved *Urban Parks Act of 2001* funds to install synthetic turf at the Airport Park sports field. The remaining bond act funds are still a great opportunity for local government and nonprofits to pay for projects that will benefit their community. I encourage you to check out bond categories and to submit your worthy projects for consideration. Let me know when you do apply so that I can send a letter supporting the application. Some of my cities have done a wonderful job of securing bond funds. How about the rest of you? Consider it a challenge!

## TreePeople Opens New "Green" Headquarters

Now entering its fourth decade, **TreePeople** has become internationally recognized as a world leader in adapting cities for sustainable living. Over the years, they have been at the center of finding solutions to the looming water and energy crisis facing Los Angeles' expanded population.

The October meeting of the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy was held at **TreePeople's** new Center for Community Forestry. Constructed to optimize water conservation, energy efficiency, indoor environmental quality and use of appropriate building materials, at the same time it minimizes long-term operational costs. It is an extraordinary model of sustainability. Insulation is shredded blue jeans. Structural steel and interior partitions are all from recycled waste. It's so energy efficient that it has neither heating nor air conditioning. Concrete used in roofs and floors contains 50% fly ash – a powder created by coal-

electric power generation, millions of tons of which is usually dumped in landfills. The list goes on and on. For more information and a virtual tour of this amazing building and Center, visit **TreePeople** at [www.treepeople.org](http://www.treepeople.org).



If you know of a business or organization that is modeling sustainability in their construction or operations, even in very small ways, please let me know so that I can give them the recognition they deserve.

## Recycle Your Old Electronics Free

The City of L.A. offers periodic free collection of household hazardous waste, including e-waste like old computer monitors and components. For City and L.A. County residents, the next one will be held on **Saturday, December 11 at the Malibu Civic Center Rear Parking lot, 23519 West Civic Center Way.** Hours are from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Unwanted electronics are de-manufactured, separated into components, and scrapped. It's estimated that just in California, 10,000 computers become obsolete every day. This is a great opportunity to see your discards get a new life, while protecting our soil and ground water from the toxic contaminants that could otherwise leak out of them if thrown into landfills.

## What's a CLvFFie, You Ask?

The Conejo/Las Virgenes Future Foundation is a nonprofit "think tank" that looks at issues involving the quality of life of the Conejo/Las Virgenes region. Every year they identify members of the community who they believe have made significant contributions, and they recognize them with their annual "CLvFFie" Awards. This year I attended the awards dinner at the Lake Sherwood Country Club in my district, where over 20 area residents were finalists. My very own District Director, four-term Agoura Hills Councilmember, **Louise Rishoff**, was the winner of this year's Government/Public Service CLvFFie Award as "a driving force behind several additions to the inventory of permanent open space, the removal of eyesores along the 101 corridor, and local environmental safeguards. She has been committed to improving our quality of life and preserving our region's natural beauty, touching our lives in ways both great and small."

Warmest congratulations also to 41<sup>st</sup> AD finalists **Matt Finders**, for his wonderful volunteer work with the students of Lindero Canyon Middle School and their jazz band; to **Jess Thomas**, for his tireless advocacy on behalf of regional open space protection and careful planning; and to **Steve Rivetti**, for overcoming personal challenges to lead and inspire the Agoura Pony Baseball program.

Final congratulations go to **Dr. Albert "Bud" Marley**, former Superintendent of the Las Virgenes Unified School District, as winner of the special *Doris LaViolette Award*, for his lifetime of work in education and support of the local chambers of commerce.

## "Letters About Literature" Contest for Students

The *California Center for the Book*, housed at UCLA and affiliated with the Library of Congress, has announced its 22<sup>nd</sup> annual "Letters About Literature" contest. To enter, readers from grades 4 through 12 write a personal letter to an author, explaining how his or her work changed their view of the world or themselves. Authors can be from any genre – fiction or nonfiction, contemporary or classic. The national prize is an all-expense-paid trip to Washington D.C. for the winning student and his or her teacher and parents. The *California Center for the Book* will select the top letter-writers in California at each of three competition levels: Level I for grades 4-6, Level II for grades 7-8, and Level III for grades 9-12.

**Deadline for entries is December 4.**

In California, this contest is supported by the California Department of Education, the California School Library Association, the California Teachers Association, and the Children's Literature Council of Southern California. **For more information and an entry coupon**, visit the *California Center for the Book's* website at <http://www.calbook.org/>, or call (310) 206-9361. As a teacher, it would be a particular thrill for me to have a student in the 41<sup>st</sup> Assembly District be a winner in this contest.

## Oxnard "Operation Gobble"

My District Office staff is pleased once again to join the California Water Association in what is becoming an annual tradition of handing out free turkeys to Oxnard families. The turkeys will be added to holiday baskets distributed by the Marina West Family Resource Center and the Harrington Family Resource Center. Both Centers have identified families of students at several local elementary schools who will be assisted with these baskets. Additional turkeys are being provided to the Salvation Army of Oxnard. In all, 100 turkeys will be distributed. Thanks to all of the organizations involved in this effort that will help to make this coming Thanksgiving Day a wonderful one for so many families.

# *Happy Thanksgiving to All!*

# Assemblymember Pavley's Committee Assignments

Appropriations Committee  
Arts, Entertainment, Sports, Tourism, and Internet Media Committee  
Budget Committee  
Education Committee  
Transportation Committee  
Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee  
Select Committee on California Ports  
Select Committee on Coastal Protection  
Select Committee on the Future of California's Health  
Select Committee on National Defense, Technology and Jobs  
Select Committee on Sustainability  
Select Committee on Title IX  
Chair, Select Committee on Air and Water Quality  
Chair, Select Committee on Hydrogen and Other Alternative Fuels  
Chair, Budget Subcommittee #3 on Resources  
Legislative Advisory Committee – Wildlife Conservation Board  
Legislative Advisory Committee – California Coastal Conservancy  
Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy Board

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